

Amendments to the Claims

Claims have been reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

13. (new): A digital media distribution system for use with a data network comprising:
- a content database for storing a plurality of digital media files; and
 - a service area network in communication with the content database for receiving the plurality of digital media files via a first network connection, the service area network comprising,
 - a hub for managing distribution of the plurality of digital media files,
 - at least one router in communication with the hub for delivering the plurality of digital media files via a second network connection, and
 - at least one end-user system in communication with the at least one router configured to receive the plurality of digital media files via a third network connection.
14. (new): The system of claim 13 wherein the hub comprises:
- a head-end control system for,
 - selecting the at least one end-user system for distribution of the plurality of digital media files,
 - testing the third network connection such that the third network connection is verified,
 - selecting the at least one router corresponding to the selecting the at least one end-user system, and
 - sending the plurality of digital media files to the selecting the at least one end-user system;
 - a look-up service for finding the plurality of digital media files; and

a digital rights management service for authorizing distribution of the plurality of digital media files.

15. (new): The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one end-user system is further configured to store the plurality of digital media files.

16. (new): The system of claim 15 wherein the plurality of digital media files stored on the at least one end-user system are not directly controllable by an end-user.

17. (new): The system of claim 16 wherein the plurality of digital media files stored on the at least one end-user system are registered by the look-up service such that the plurality of digital media files are available for further distribution.

18. (new): The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one router utilizes host-intelligent dynamic routing algorithms.

19. (new): The system of claim 13 wherein the data network is configured in a topology selected from the group consisting of: daisy chain topology, star topology, and ring topology.

20. (new): The system of claim 13 wherein the first network connection is selected from the group consisting of: a satellite connection, an Internet connection, a cable television connection, or a physical delivery service connection.

21. (new): The system of claim 16 wherein the plurality of digital media files stored on the at least one end-user system are stored on a storage device that is at least partially controllable by the end-user.

22. (new): The system of claim 16 further comprising a user-access profile database, the user-access profile data base configured to store access information for the at least one end-user system.

23. (new): A method of distributing a digital media file over a data network comprising:
requesting the digital media file by a first end-user, the digital media file stored in a content data base;
receiving the requesting the digital media file by a hub, the hub configured to at least process the first end-user request;
finding the digital media file by the hub; and
sending the digital media file to the first end-user, the first end-user having a first storage location for receiving the digital media file.

24. (new): The method of claim 23 further comprising:
requesting the digital media file by a second end-user;
receiving the requesting the digital media file by the hub;
finding the digital media file located on the first storage location by the hub; and
sending the digital media file located on the first storage location to the second end-user, the second end-user having a second storage location for receiving the digital media file.

25. (new): The method of claim 24 wherein the hub is further configured to:
test a network connection between the hub and an end-user system; and
select a router for distributing the digital media file to the end-user system.

26. (new): The method of claim 23 wherein the hub utilizes an electronic programming guide (EPG) to find the digital media file.

27. (new): The method of claim 23 wherein the hub is further configured to process digital rights such that distribution of the digital media file is authorized.

Amendment submitted in response
to Office Action mailed 08/11/2005
U.S. Pat App. No. 10/081,101
Filing Date 02/20/2002
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28. (new): The method of claim 26 wherein the EPG contains digital rights information.